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BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM,
KENT.

REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Borough

OF

Gillingham, Kent,

For the

Year ending 31st December, 1927.

BY

W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Centre,
School Medical Officer.

PRINTED BY A. C. BURGESS,
17, CANTERBURY STREET, GILLINGHAM, KENT.

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Health Committee, 1926-1927

Composed of all the Members of the Council.

Chairman .-ALDERMAN A. M. DAVENPORT,

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1926-1927.

Composed of all the Members of the Council, and the following
Co-opted Members.

MR. S. HORE. J.P.

MRS. E. GRANT.

MR. H. GIBBS.

MRS. A. KIPPING.

MR. W. H. THORNTON, J.P.

MRS. HURWITZ.

MR. W. E. MOORHOUSE.

MRS. W. SMETHURST.

MRS. M. FISHLEY.

MISS E. DAVIES.

Chairman :-COUNCILLOR F. A. CHAPPELL.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

April, 1928.

*To the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Gillingham, Kent.*

MR. MAYOR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health conditions of the Borough for the year ending 31st December 1927.

The population in June 1927, is estimated by the Registrar General as 57,510, the highest figure yet recorded. The birth rate of 14.6 per 1000 is the lowest on record, whilst the death rate is the same as in the previous year. The infantile mortality rate (59 per 1000 births) is higher than it has been for some years, but the tuberculosis death rate is the lowest yet returned. (the year 1925 excepted.)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent but with few exceptions was mild in type. 50 per cent of the patients were treated at home without the occurrence of a secondary case. Whooping Cough cases were numerous in the spring months and seven proved fatal.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The attendances at the Centre continue to multiply year by year. The present premises are for many reasons unsuitable, but it is expected that more suitable ones will be available during the present year.

I should like to express my thanks to all members of the staff for their support and assistance and for the way in which they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :—

|| W. A. MUIR, M.D. (Glas.), Ch. B., D P.H.

Medical Officer (part time) Maternity and Child Welfare

|| STELLA HENRIQUES, M.B., Ch. B.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

|| DAVID L. BALL, Cert. Royal San. Institute.

Bronze Medallist and Prizeman, City and Guilds, London.

Sanitary Inspectors :—

JAMES ARNOLD.

|| *G. H. RIDGWAY, C.R.S.I.

Veterinary Surgeon (part time) :—

ELMER EBBETTS, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors :—

|| MRS. A. LEACH, (C.M.B. Cert, Health Visitors' Cert.)

|| †Miss R. HOPKINS (C.M.B. Cert.)

Clerks :—

J. F. CREIGHTON, Cert. S.I.B.

H. F. KING.

*Also Inspector under the Shops Act.

†General Trained Nurse.

||Indicates officials to whose salaries contribution is made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1927.

Total area in acres (excluding foreshore and tidal	
Water	4,988
Do. (including foreshore and tidal water) ...	7,291
Population (Census 1921)	54,026
Population (Registrar General June 1927) ...	57,510
Density of population per acre (1921 Census) ...	10·9
Number of inhabited houses (1921 Census) ...	10,859
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921 Census)	12,486
Birth rate (Registrar General) per 1,000 of population	14·6
Death rate (Registrar General) per 1,000 of population	11·4
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births ...	59
Phthisis death rate per 1,000 of population ...	·7
Total tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 of population	·8
Cancer death rate per 1,000 of population ...	1·5
Zymotic death rate per 1,000 of population ...	·3
Rateable value (1926-1927)	£216.676
Sum represented by a penny rate (District Fund)	
1926-27	£815

In 1927-1928 the total Rates were 14s. 10d in the £ (excluding Water rate and charges).

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of	
outdoor relief during 1927-28	275
Amount paid in outdoor relief (1927-28) ...	£4,044
Number of Gillingham persons admitted to Medway	
Hospital during 1927-28	201

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extract is required by the Ministry of Health :—

			Total.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate	...	812	435	377	} Birth Rate.	14·6
	Illegitimate	...	32	12	20		
Deaths	...	...	557	282	275	Death Rate	11·4
Number of Women dying in or in)							
		consequence of child birth			from sepsis	...	3
					other causes	...	3
Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 births							59
Legitimate, 55·4. Illegitimate, 156.							
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					...	...	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)					...	...	7
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					...	...	4

POPULATION.

The population is estimated by the Registrar General as **57,510**. The census figure in 1921 was 54,026. The natural increase of population (i.e., the excess of births and deaths) was 287 compared with 394 in the previous year.

BIRTHS.

The births registered numbered 1002 but of these a percentage belonged to outside districts, the mother residing only temporarily in the Borough. The corrected figure is 844, giving a birth rate of **14·6 per 1000** of the population compared with 16·4 in the previous year.

Of the total births 3·7 per cent were illegitimate.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS (Local Records).

Ward.				No. of Births.
North	...	...	...	213
South	...	...	...	141
East	...	...	...	169
West	...	...	...	81
Brompton	...	...	...	89
Medway	...	...	...	150
Total	...	...	...	843

DEATHS.

There were 282 deaths amongst males and 275 amongst females or a total of 557 representing a **Crude Death Rate of 11·4 per 1000** of the population compared with 11·3 in the previous year.

As Gillingham has a higher proportion of old persons in its population than many districts, it is necessary to multiply the crude death rate by "the factor for correction" to obtain a comparable figure which is known as the "standard death rate".

As the "factor for correction" for Gillingham is ·909 the **standard death rate** for the year was **10·3** per 1000 persons living.

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Of all deaths registered 166 or nearly 30 per cent occurred in Institutions.

	No. of Deaths.	
Medway Infirmary	101	} 166 = 29·8 per cent.
St. Bart's Hospital, Rochester	51	
St. William's Isolation Hospital Rochester	5	
County Mental Hospital ...	9	

INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 50 children died before attaining the age of one year. This represents an **infantile mortality rate of 59 per 1000 births** compared with 51 in the previous year. (See Page 39)

The following table compares the health record of Gillingham with London and other towns throughout England and Wales. The majority of the figures are favourable to Gillingham.

Table X.—**Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality** during the year, 1927.

(Provisional figures. The rates have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1927. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilian as regards London and the groups of towns. As the registration of stillbirths did not come into operation until 1st July, 1927, no stillbirths are included.)

	Birth-rate per 1000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births			Percentage of Total Deaths			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inquest	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales	16.7	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.09	0.07	0.57	0.51	6.3	69	91.7	6.6	0.7*	1.0
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17.1	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.10	0.08	0.49	0.46	8.3	71	91.9	6.6	0.9*	0.6
155† Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000).	16.4	11.3	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.08	0.05	0.58	0.41	5.0	68	92.7	5.8	0.3*	1.2
London	16.1	11.9	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.09	0.39	0.51	7.5	59	90.3	7.9	1.8*	0.0
Gillingham	14.6	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.14	0.08	0.39	0.16	4.7	59	92.6	5.3		2.

*The Coroners (Amendment) Act, 1926, which came into operation on the 1st. May 1927, provided for the registration of death on a certificate of the Coroner after P.M. without inquest. These percentages relate therefore to 8 months of the year only.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

A perusal of the list of causes of death elicits that with the exception of heart disease, the most frequent was **cancer**. It was responsible for 74 deaths which represents a death rate of 1·5 per 1000 of the population and 13·2 per cent of all the deaths. This is the highest local incidence on record. The increase may be *partially* explained by improved diagnosis and by the large proportion of persons of middle life and advanced age in the population, as cancer generally attacks persons at these age periods.

The Ministry of Health circulars dealing with different aspects of the cancer problem indicate that the outlook for the patient as the result of operations is much better than was generally supposed, especially if the surgical treatment is received at an early stage of the disease.

The actual cause of cancer has not been discovered. Meantime the best known treatment is **early** operative procedure coupled with the use of radium and X rays.

Tuberculosis was responsible for 41 deaths, representing a death rate of ·8 for 1000 of the population and 7·3 per cent of all deaths. (See Page 27)

Organic Heart Disease.

This was returned as the cause of the death in 101 cases but the figure is of little value as it includes many persons dying from senility.

Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and other Respiratory Diseases.

These were responsible for 53 deaths or 9·5 per cent of the total.

Influenza was the cause of death in 19 cases. This does not include deaths due to influenzal pneumonia.

There was a small epidemic during the months of January and February. Posters were exhibited and pamphlets distributed giving advice as to the best methods of avoiding infection.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of death amongst civilians as provided by the Registrar General :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.						282	275
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	5	2
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	2
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	11	8
8.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...
9.	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	19	19
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
12.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	38	36
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1	
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	7
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage etc.	...	...	...	...	9	13
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	58	43
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	19	8
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	10	12
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	10	15
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	2
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	3
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	3	1
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	2	3
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...		3
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	11	5
26.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...		3
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...		3
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	17	11
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	2
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	5	3
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	42	68
32.	Causes ill defined or unknown	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (including above) :—							
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under one year :—							
	Total	...	...	...	...	31	19
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	2
Population :—							
	For Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	57,510	
	For Death Rate	...	...	...	...	48,530	

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1927 and previous years.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Regis- tered in the District.	Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Uncor- rected Number.	Nett. Number.		Rate.	of Non- Residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not register- ed in the District.	Under 1 yr. of age		At all ages.		
								Number.	Rate.		Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.
1915		
1916		
1917		
1918		
1919		
1920		
1921	Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1922		
"		
1923		
"		
1924		
"		
1925		
"		
1926		
"		
1927		
"		

a Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Birth-rate.

b Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Death-rate.

† Figure given by Registrar-General.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year, 279 cases of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) were notified compared with 264 in the previous year. The number of diphtheria cases was similar (94), while those of scarlet fever rose from 103 to 125. The Borough again remained free from small-pox.

GILLINGHAM BOROUGH.

Table showing the seasonal incidence of the different infectious diseases.

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Polio-myelitis.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever.	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
January...	...	21	5	1			1	1				5	
February	...	32	8	1			1					9	
March ...	...	10	12	1								2	
April ...	...	7	9									1	
May ...	...	5	3									2	1
June ...	...	3	7						1			2	
July ...	...	11	6	2					3		1	3	
August ...	...	5	3						1				
September	...	2	4	2				1	1				
October...	...	5	8								1	6	
November	...	11	16	4					2			1	
December	...	8	13					1				2	
Totals	...	125*	94	11			2	3	8		2	33	1

*Including 4 notified by military authorities.

SCARLET FEVER.

Notifications numbered 125, compared with 103 and 56 in 1926 and 1925 respectively. 50 per cent only of the patients were treated in Hospital, as the remainder were able to be efficiently isolated at home.

The 121 cases (military cases excluded) involved 107 separate dwellings as follows :—

In 96 houses	...	...	1 patient
„ 9 „	...	...	2 patients
„ 1 house	...	...	3 „
„ 1 „	...	...	4 „

In the house with 4 patients all were notified on the same day. Onset of illness was on the same date in each case and all four were treated at home. In the house with 3 patients all were treated in Hospital the dates of removal being 21/3/27, 25/3/27, and 17/4/27.

Details of 9 houses with two cases :—

Hospital Treated.
5 cases

Home Treated.
4 cases

2 were return cases and 3 occurred within 5 days of removal of first case.

All occurred within 5 days of first case.

The above facts demonstrate that 50% of all notified cases of scarlet fever were treated at home without infecting any other person in the house.

The Dick Test has not been employed as an aid to diagnosis.

Table showing notifications, number of deaths, etc., from Scarlet Fever during 1916-1927.

Year.	Population	Number Notified	Deaths Registered	Treated in Hospital	Percentage Removed to Hospital	Attack Rate per 1,000 of population	Mortality per 1,000
1916 ...	45058	98	—	67	68	—	—
1917 ...	45646	115	3	89	77	—	.06
1918 ...	46008	178	1	124	69	—	.02
1919 ...	47914	149	1	121	81	—	.02
1920 ...	47914	129	—	86	66	—	—
1921 ...	54038	139	—	108	77	—	—
1922 ...	54750	151	1	118	78	—	.01
1923 ...	47620*	143	1	106	74	3	.02
1924 ..	48130*	94	—	61	65.5	1.9	—
1925 ...	48680*	56	—	30	53.5	1.1	—
1926 ...	47820*	103	2	70	67.8	2.1	.04
1927 ...	48530*	125	2	62	50.5	2.5	.04

*Excluding Non-Civilians.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 94 notifications, exactly the same number as in the previous year. November and December were the months with the highest incidence due to a limited outbreak at Richmond Road Infants' School.

There were 4 deaths. 72 patients or 76.5% were removed to Hospital.

As in previous years, anti-toxin was provided free by the

Corporation to medical practitioners requiring it. 399,500 units were supplied.

The Schick test for establishing whether a person is susceptible to diphtheria has not been used and no immunisation against the disease has been carried out.

The 94 cases involved 81 houses as shown :—

In 69 houses	...	...	1 case
„ 11 „	...	...	2 cases
„ 1 house	...	...	3 „

From the house with 3 cases all were removed to Hospital within 24 hours of one another.

Details of 11 houses with 2 cases .—

Treated in Hospital

8

In 6 instances the 2nd case occurred within 7 days and in 2 instances within 9 days of removal of the first case.

Treated at Home

3

In 2 instances the 2nd case was notified within 24 hours of the 1st, but in the 3rd after an interval of 17 days.

Table showing notifications, cases isolated, number of deaths, etc., from Diphtheria during 1915-1927,

Year	Population	Number Notified ¹	Deaths Registered	Treated in Hospital	Percentage Removed to Hospital	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population	Mortality per 1,000
1915 ...	45058	94	13	53	56	—	.2
1916 ...	45058	43	3	29	67	—	.06
1917 ...	45646	38	1	26	68	—	.02
1918 ...	46008	35	3	28	80	—	.06
1919 ...	47914	49	3	41	83	—	.06
1920 ...	47914	116	14	85	72	—	.2
1921 ...	54038	159	14	116	72	—	.2
1922 ...	54750	126	9	110	87	—	.16
1923 ...	47620*	88	6	80	90.9	1.8	.12
1924 ...	48130*	13	2	13	100	.27	.04
1925 ...	48680*	18	2	17	94.4	.36	.04
1926 ...	47820*	94	7	84	89.3	1.9	.14
1927 ...	48530*	95	4	72	76.5	1.9	.08

* Excluding Non-Civilians.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.

Eight notifications were received, compared with four, two, and three, in the preceding 3 years.

Bacteriologically, all proved to be infections by *Bacillus Paratyphosus B.*

Two children were infected in one house but no connection was traced between the others, which occurred at intervals as shown :—

June 1 case
July 3 cases
August 1 case

September 1 case
November 2 cases

The ages of the patients were 19, 3, 10, 19, 14, 6, 42, and 18 years. One was treated at home, 2 in St. Bartholomew's Hospital Rochester, and 5 in St. William's Isolation Hospital. All made a good recovery.

SMALL-POX.

The Borough has been fortunate enough to remain clear of small-pox but the disease has been widespread in the North, the Midlands, and in Wales, and more recently the tramp population has been found infected in the South. During the last 10 years its incidence has gradually risen, the notifications in 1927 reaching a total of 14,769. (provisional figure.)

The figures for previous years are appended .—

Year.	Small-pox Cases (England and Wales)		
1918	63
1919	311
1920	280
1921	336
1922	973
1923	2504
1924	3797
1925	5354
1926	10141
1927	14764 (Provisional)

The majority of the cases were mild in type, but the Hendon outbreak was virulent in character, four of eight cases terminating fatally.

As I have pointed out in previous reports the best and cheapest way to tackle small-pox is to prevent it and this can be done by vaccination. Of the 10,141 patients notified in 1926, none had been vaccinated within the previous 10 years.

VACCINATION.

The vaccination returns for 1927 for which I am indebted to Mr. H. E. Stigant, Vaccination Officer are appended.

Births during 1927	...	1013
Vaccinated	...	639
Exemptions due to "conscientious objection"	...	329
Postponements on medical grounds	96 (includes many repeats)	

Of the 639 successfully vaccinated, 20 were born in other districts.

Infants known to have been successfully vaccinated.

Year.			Percentage.
1923	...	...	64
1924	...	...	68
1925	...	...	61
1926	...	...	59
1927	...	...	61

The percentage of infants vaccinated is thus high compared with many districts where it is as low as 20 per cent.

PNEUMONIA.

33 cases were notified as follows :—

Influenzal Pneumonia	...	15
Lobar Pneumonia	...	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	15

The deaths from all forms numbered 25.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

Acute Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) was conspicuous by its absence. No case was brought to the notice of the health department whereas in the previous year there were 8 known cases, 3 of which proved fatal.

One patient was notified from the Military Families Hospital as suffering from encephalitis lethargica, (sleeping sickness) having

been admitted from Barracks at Gravesend. She died shortly after notification.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following figures compiled in the school medical department do not give a complete record of the incidence of measles, etc., amongst the total population but are probably fairly accurate for all children attending public elementary schools :—

No of Notifications.	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
Measles	33	693	191	366	97
Whooping Cough	187	29	152	40	106
Chicken Pox	215	324	274	115	159
Mumps	29	641	44	No record.	No record

Measles and whooping cough assume epidemic form alternately during the spring months. In the spring of 1925 measles was widespread whereas in 1927 whooping cough, as expected, was prevalent and proved fatal in 7 cases. The following table gives the number of deaths from measles and whooping cough during the years 1921-1927.

Deaths from	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Measles ...	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	7	1	3	2	6	2	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications of tuberculosis of the lungs numbered 58 (75) and of other forms 18 (24). a total of 76 compared with 99 and 80 in the two previous years. In addition 46 C forms were received notifying the admission to institutions of patients already notified.

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LUNGS.

Notified by Private Practitioners	...	...	30
Notified from Sanatoria and Hospitals	...	...	20
Notified by Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	4
Notified by M.O.H.s of other districts (Transfers)	...	...	4
			<hr/>
			58
			<hr/>
New cases not notified (obtained from death returns)			6
			} 64

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

Notified by Private Practitioners	...	...	6
Notified by Hospitals and Sanatoria	...	...	9
Notified by Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	3
			<hr/>
			18
			<hr/>

The parts of the body affected in the surgical cases were :—

Cervical glands	...	...	...	...	6
Bones and joints	...	...	...	...	6
Peritoneum	...	...	...	...	2
Other forms	...	...	...	...	4
					<hr/>
					18
					<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1921.

At the end of the year there were 253 cases on the tuberculosis register.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Totals.
Number on register at 1st January, 1927 ...	153	93	246
Number on register at 31st December, 1927	155	98	253

The register is revised quarterly by removing entries relating to notifications in respect of persons who have died or who have removed to other districts. Non-pulmonary cases which have been quiescent for three years and pulmonary ones for five years are also removed. Accurate information is obtainable on account of the close collaboration existing between the local health department and the tuberculosis officer.

The following Table, compiled from local records, gives details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1927.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—
10	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	1
15	2	—	—	1	3	2	—	—
20	3	9	—	—	5	3	—	—
25	11	7	1	2	3	7	—	—
35	4	4	—	—	1	6	1	—
45	11	1	—	1	5	—	—	—
55	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	34	24	9	9	18	19	2	1
	58		18		39		3	

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.

According to the Registrar General's returns there were 41 deaths from tuberculosis,—38 from tuberculosis of the lungs and 3 from surgical tuberculosis. This gives a death rate of .8 per 1000 of the population, the lowest on record with one exception (year 1925). As the death rate rose considerably during 1926 it would appear that this was merely one of the fluctuations which must be expected in the mortality rate of any disease which is gradually falling over a series of years

The following table is inserted for purposes of comparison :—

Year.	Deaths.			Death Rates per 1000 of population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1916 ...	73	63	10	1.5	1.3	.2
1917 ...	72	53	19	1.5	1.1	.4
1918 ...	61	54	7	1.25	1.1	.15
1919 ...	59	48	11	1.2	1.0	.2
1920 ...	54	40	14	1.12	.83	.29
1921 ...	61	50	11	1.12	.92	.2
1922 ...	75	66	9	1.5	1.3	.2
1923 ...	59	42	17	1.2	.8	.4
1924 ...	47	35	12	.9	.7	.2
1925 ...	36	31	5	.7	.6	.1
1926 ...	60	50	10	1.2	1.0	.2
1927 ...	41	38	3	.8	.7	.1

Many cases are still notified at a late stage of the disease and the figures of the last few years do not indicate improvement in this respect.

17% of all notified cases of tuberculosis of the lungs proved fatal within 3 months of notification.

Period elapsing between notification and death	Number	Percentage	
		1927	1926
1-7 days ...	4	6.8	4.2
1-4 Weeks ...	4	6.8	4.2
1-3 months ...	2	3.4	9.3
		—	—
		17.0	17.7
		—	—

In addition 6 fatal cases (14.5%) were not notified; in these the attention of the medical practitioners was drawn to their failure to carry out the provisions of the tuberculosis regulations.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

The Kent County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary in Nelson Road is open on Tuesdays (9.30 to 10.30) and on Fridays (2 to 3 and 4 to 5 p.m.).

Dr. Roper, Tuberculosis Officer, has kindly furnished me with the subjoined figures :—

1927

Number of New Cases	...	...	...	124
Total number of attendances (Old and New)	...	...	...	850
Number sent to Institutions	...	...	...	42
Number receiving Tuberculin	...	...	...	0

DIAGNOSIS—NEW CASES (excluding children of school age).

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	29
Surgical Tuberculosis	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	0
Other Diseases	...	...	...	1
Apparently healthy	...	...	...	45
Under observation	...	...	...	1

DIAGNOSIS—NEW CASES (children of school age only).

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0
Surgical Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3
Other diseases	...	...	...	2
Apparently healthy	...	...	...	31
Under observation	...	...	...	1

INSTITUTIONS to which patients were sent during 1927.

County Sanatorium, Lenham	...	...	13
Keycol Hill Sanatorium, Sittingbourne	...	...	5
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington	...	...	8
Frimley Sanatorium	...	...	1
Cranbrook Convalescent Home	...	...	4
Victoria Home, Margate	...	...	2
Dover Isolation Hospital	...	...	2
Sevenoaks Isolation Hospital	...	...	4
Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone	...	...	1
Swanley (Orthopædic)	...	...	2

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

These prohibit any person suffering from infectious tuberculosis of the lungs from engaging in any employment in connection with a dairy which involves the milking of cows or the direct handling of milk in vessels used for containing milk. No necessity arose during the year for invoking these regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SEC. 62.

This gives power to local authorities to insist on the removal to hospital of patients suffering from tuberculosis where home conditions are unsatisfactory due to overcrowding etc. No action was taken under this section.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Kent County Council Clinic is held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Rochester. The secretary states that the number of new cases from Gillingham was 63, and from Chatham and Rochester 112.

The following are the figures for the past 3 years :—

	1927	1926	1925
Gillingham	63	67	30
Chatham	112	96	71
Rochester		61	50
Totals	<hr/> 175 <hr/>	<hr/> 224 <hr/>	<hr/> 151 <hr/>

METHODS OF DISINFECTION.

Following deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs it has been the custom to *fumigate* the rooms with formalin vapour, and to remove mattresses, pillows, etc., for disinfection by steam. Since November, 1927, however, fumigation has been replaced by spraying the room and its contents with formalin. The apparatus is carried on the disinfectors' back and the fluid pumped up into the spray by hand. By this means more efficient disinfection is obtained as the disinfecting fluid is actually sprayed on to any infectious material that may be present.

Following scarlet fever and diphtheria, mattresses, pillows, etc., are disinfected in the steam disinfector and the patient's room "spring cleaned" by the occupier. The Sanitary Inspectors leave explanation cards and also personally describe how to "spring clean". Fumigation is not carried out unless a special request is made by the parent and a fee of 5/- paid. During the year there were 4 requests after cases of scarlet fever and 2 after diphtheria.

Articles disinfected in steam disinfector or formalin chamber :—

Mattresses	...	316	Clothing	...	478
Pillows	...	464	Rugs	...	70
Bolsters	...	225	Books	...	115
Cushions	...	108	Sundries	...	70
Carpets	...	24	Palliasses	...	30

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For accident and emergency cases a 20 H.P. Austin Ambulance is provided by the Local Authority.

(b) For infectious cases the Local Authority has a half-ton Ford Motor Ambulance.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER, DIPHTHERIA, AND TYPHOID FEVER PATIENTS

These are sent under agreement to St. William's Isolation Hospital, Rochester, which also admits cases from Rochester, Chatham, and neighbouring authorities.

The Medical Officer of the Hospital has kindly furnished me with the following figures for 1927 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Total
Rochester	46	32	0	78
Chatham	100	190	5	295
Gillingham	59	75	5	139
Neighbouring Authorities }	6	5	0	11
	—	—	—	—
	211	302	10	523
	—	—	—	—

For Gillingham patients the **average** stay in Hospital for scarlet fever was 42 days and for diphtheria 27·5 days.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE, FOR THE DISTRICT.

1. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME,

(a) *General Nursing*.—The Gillingham Local Nursing Association has three nurses working in the town. The Association is financed by Voluntary Subscribers and by contributions from patients and Local Societies.

(b) *Infectious Disease Nursing*.—Cases of measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea and ophthalmia neonatorum are visited by the Health Visitors.

Commencing 1st December 1926, an agreement was made with the Local Nursing Association for the provision of nursing assistance for "necessitous" mothers suffering from puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia.

2. MIDWIVES.

The Number of resident registered midwives is 15 all of whom are certified, with the exception of one. Others resident in Chatham also practise in Gillingham. Five of the fifteen are attached to the Royal Naval Maternity Home. They are all under the supervision of the Kent County Council.

The council does not employ or subsidise any midwives.

3. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre*, United Methodist Chapel, Arden Street, Gillingham. Premises used consist of three rooms waiting, weighing, consulting, etc. The Council pays a small sum annually to cover cost of gas, light, etc.

Days of attendance are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 2 p.m.

(b) *School Clinics*, Gardiner Street, Gillingham, provided by the Local Authority.

Minor Ailments,—Daily (Fridays excepted), at 9 a.m.
Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 p.m.

Dental.—Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.
Friday at 9.30 a.m.

(c) Arrangements have been made with the trustees of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the operative treatment of adenoids and tonsils, for refraction examinations and for the X-ray treatment of ringworm.

(d) *Tuberculosis Dispensary* at Nelson Road, Gillingham. Open Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., and Friday 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. 5 p.m.,—provided by Kent County Council.

(e) *Venereal Diseases Clinic* at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester—administered by Kent County Council.

4. HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) General Hospital (St. Bartholomew's Rochester) with 126 beds.

(b) Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham, with 400 beds. This includes 80 maternity beds

(c) Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Nursing Home Barnsole Road, Gillingham, opened in 1922, has 24 beds. The Local Authority does not make any grant towards the expenses of the Home.

(d) St. William's Infectious Hospital, Rochester,—By arrangement, Gillingham cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever are admitted.

(e) Small Pox Hospital, Wigmore, Gillingham, 16 beds—provided by Gillingham Corporation.

(f) Tuberculosis cases are sent by the County Council to various institutions within and without the County.

There are 36 beds for tuberculosis patients in the Medway Institution.

(g) Children's beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester and the Medway Institution.

5. INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS,
Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

- (a) Medway Institution.
- (b) Diocesan Home, Chatham.
- (c) Salvation Army Rescue Home, Chatham.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

All specimens are examined free of charge in the Kent County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

The following examinations were made during the year :—

Swabs for B. Diphtheriæ.		Number.	Percentage. positive
1.	(a) From School Clinic ...	206	13·5
	(b) From Private Practitioners ...	246	28
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus		Number.	Percentage positive.
2.	(a) From Tuberculosis Officer ...	71	21
	(b) From Private Practitioners	81	22
3.	Blood for Widal's Test ...	14	35
4.	Hair for Ringworm Parasite	18	72

Outfits for taking and forwarding specimens are supplied direct to practitioners by Dr. Greenwood, County M.O.H., Sessions House, Maidstone, and are also obtainable at the local public health department any week-day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 9. to 1).

The following anti-sera can be obtained at the health department in Gardiner Street :—

Diphtheria antitoxin.

Tetanus antitoxin (prophylactic).

Antistreptococcus Serum.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is also available at the Fire Station when the office is closed.

LABORATORY EXAMINATION OF FOOD

MILK.—29 samples of Grade A milk and 2 samples of ungraded milk were examined at the county laboratory for the number of organisms per cubic centimetre (See Page 45) 2 specimens were tested biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli with negative result.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS, 1907 AND 1915

Year.	Births Registered locally.	Birth notified	No. of Births corrected for inward and outward transfers
1922	1197	1125 (94 p.c.)	1109
1923	1118	1087 (97 p.c.)	1072
1924	1014	983 (97 p.c.)	942
1925	1059	1020 (96 p.c.)	951
1926	1053	1015 (96 p.c.)	938
1927	1013	997 (98 p.c.)	844

Of the 997 births notified as occurring in the Borough midwives notified 83 p.c.

	1927	1926	1925
Midwives notified	... 83 p.c.	82.7 p.c.	78 p.c.
Medical Practitioners notified	16.7 p.c.	17.2 p.c.	21 p.c.
Parents notified	... 1 p.c.	1 p.c.	5 p.c.

During the year there were 12 twin births and 2 sets of triplets.

Births in institutions formed 39 p.c. of the total number notified, the highest figure reached during the years 1923-27.

1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
39 p.c.	34 p.c.	30 p.c.	30 p.c.	24 p.c.

The rise is partly due to the increasing numbers confined in the Naval Maternity Home, a proportion of which reside outside the Borough.

Home Visiting. This was continued as in previous years. The nurses report that the houses to which they are refused admission become fewer every year.

Efforts are being made to increase the visits to children aged 1-5 years and to expectant mothers.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS.

	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
First visits to living infants	775	849	893	877
Visits <i>re</i> still-births ...	33	10	18	16
Revisits under one year ...	2073	2400	2424	2328
Visits 1-5 years ...	1470	1365	929	523
Visits <i>re</i> milk order ...	30	40	39	25
Visits to expectant mothers	83	68	31	41
Visits <i>re</i> ophthalmia neonatorum	14	64	3	—
„ puerperal fever ...	3	1	—	1
„ acute poliomyelitis	—	2	1	2
„ diarrhoea ...	2	49	24	3
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4483	4848	4362	3815

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

The success of the centre is maintained, The attendances numbered 8600 compared with 7623 in the previous year, the average attendance being 57 and this in spite of the centre being open on three afternoons per week. The great increase in the activity of the centre has emphasised the unsuitability of the present premises; it is hoped that more suitable accommodation will be available in Skinner Street during the current year (1928).

Propaganda in health matters has been continued by exhibition of posters, distribution of pamphlets and booklets and by talks given by the health visitors. Model garments are on exhibition and work is sold for the knitting of similar garments at home. Ostelin cream is supplied to certain infants whose parents are necessitous but no other medicines are given or sold.

SUMMARY OF WORK AT CENTRE DURING 1927.

Infants on register for first time	...	...	486
Total infants on register 31st December, 1927			2075
Total attendances of children	...	...	8600
Average attendance per session throughout the year	...	...	57
Percentage of total births attending	...		51 p.c.
Infants referred to hospital or private practitioners	...	...	101
Expectant mothers attending	...	...	64

SUPPLY OF MILK TO EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

The scheme for the grant of milk to necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and children has been continued. Dried milk only is supplied, the number of packets being 2561 compared with 2983 in the previous year, the cost to the Corporation for the year ending 31st December, 1927, being £153. 50 p.c. of this is paid by the Ministry.

The *average* number per month of households receiving free milk was 71.

The domestic circumstances of the households were as given :—

Husband unemployed	...	...	48	(23 p.c.)
Husband in work (large family or low wage or both)	...	...	102	(64 p.c.)
Husband sick	...	...	4	
Husband disabled (War)	...	...	2	
Husband dead	...	...	3	

METHODS OF INFANT FEEDING.

(Under 9 months).

A record is kept of the methods of feeding when the health visitors make their first visit and also when the infant is brought to the Centre for the first time.

The figures for 1927 are less satisfactory than in the previous years inasmuch as the percentage of infants breast-fed has fallen.

The following table shows that even at the first home visit 13 p.c. were found to be already artificially fed.

1. HOME VISITS (First Visits).

	Percentage Breast Fed.	Percentage Breast + Bottle.	Percentage on Bottle only.
1924	83·4	5·2	11·5
1925	86·6	4·7	8·9
1926	83·8	9	7·2
1927	79	7·8	13·2

2. AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRE (First Visit) Average age 2½ months.

	Percentage Breast Fed.	Percentage on Breast + Bottle	Percentage on Bottle only.
1924	57	8·4	34·5
1925	57	11·2	31·7
1926	66	8·7	25·2
1927	61	10·6	28·5

INFANT MORTALITY.

This is estimated as the number of deaths under 1 year per 1000 births occurring during that year. The figure supplied by the Registrar General is 50 deaths giving an infant mortality rate of **59·2 per 1000** compared with 51 in each of the two preceding years.

The following table shows that one third of these deaths occurred during the first week of life and that of the total (48) registered locally 9 were caused by pneumonia, 9 by premature birth, 7 by marasmus and debility and 4 by diarrhoea and enteritis.

Apart from conditions occurring before birth, pneumonia therefore accounts for the largest number of deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY.

59 per 1,000 Births.

Nett Deaths from stated causes (Local Register) at various ages under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
All causes :	Certified	...	16	1	3		20	14	5	4	4	27
	Uncertified	...						1				1
Small-Pox	...	...								
Chicken-Pox	...	...								
Measles	...	...								
Scarlet Fever	...	...								
Whooping Cough	...	...						3				3
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...								
Erysipelas	...	...								
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...								
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...								
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...								
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...								
Convulsions	...	...	1				1					1
Laryngitis	...	...								
Bronchitis	...	...								1		1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...		1			1	2	2	1	3	9
Diarrhoea	...	...							1			1
Enteritis	...	...						3	1			4
Gastritis	...	...								
Syphilis	...	...								
Rickets	...	...								
Suffocation, overlaying	...	...								
Injury at birth	...	...								
Atelectasis	...	...	1				1					1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	3				3	2				5
Premature birth	...	...	7		1		8	1				9
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	...	...	1				1	3	1	2		7
Other causes	...	...	3		2		5	1			1	7
			16	1	3		20	15	5	4	4	48*

*Figure given by Registrar General 50.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Of the total births 32 or 3·7 per cent were illegitimate compared with 2·2 per cent and 2·7 per cent in the two previous years. This is the highest percentage recorded during the years 1922-27. The following figures demonstrate the well-known fact that the infant mortality rate among illegitimate is invariably higher than among legitimate children. This one would expect on account of the social and other difficulties from which the illegitimate child suffers.

Year.	Illegitimate Infants.			Legitimate Infants		
	Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Illegitimate Births.	Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Legitimate Births.
1923	24	2	83·2	1,048	48	43·4
1924	23	5	217	919	45	47·8
1925	26	3	115·3	925	46	49·7
1926	21	2	95·2	917	48	52·3
1927	32	5	156	812	45	55·4

STILLBIRTHS.

35 stillbirths were notified under the Notification of Births Acts being 3·4 per cent of the total compared with 1·8 and 2 per cent in the two previous years. Under the rules of the Central Midwives Board midwives are also required to notify the County Council in all cases, of stillbirth where a registered medical practitioner is not in attendance.

In accordance with the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926 which came into force on 1st July, 1927, registration of still-births is required. The relatives giving information must deliver a certificate that the child was not born alive signed by a registered medical practitioner or certified midwife who was in attendance at the birth.

To give sanction to midwives to sign such certificates appears doubtful procedure inasmuch as is not always a simple matter even for a medical practitioner to decide whether a child was born dead or alive.

MIDWIVES.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts is the Kent County Council. The number of midwives who notified their intention to practice in Gillingham was 15. With one exception all are trained midwives. 5 of the 15 are on the staff of the Naval Maternity Home.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Six mothers died from accidents and diseases of pregnancy giving a maternal mortality rate of 7.1 per 1000 live births compared with 4.2 in the previous year and with 4.12 for England and Wales.

PUBLIC HEALTH (NOTIFICATION OF PUERPERAL
FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA), REGULATIONS
1926.

These came into operation on 1st October, 1926, and prescribed new forms for the notification of cases of Puerperal Fever and also require the notification of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia. An obligation is thus placed on all medical practitioners to notify all cases of pyrexia during the puerperium.

Puerperal Pyrexia is defined as "any febrile conditions occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage in which a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahr. or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours or has recurred during that period."

The Council has not made arrangements for hospital treatment of cases of puerperal sepsis but they are admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester or to the Medway Institution.

Two cases of puerperal fever and three of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year. Of these three were removed to hospital and proved fatal. Two of the three fatal cases were notified as puerperal pyrexia.

MATERNITY HOME.

The Council has not a maternity home, but civilians, if sent

through the Child Welfare Centre, are admitted to the Naval Maternity Home at reduced charges. The only institution available for necessitous cases is the Medway Infirmary.

22 patients were referred to the Naval Maternity Home compared with 26 in the previous year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Inflammation of the eyes of the newly-born is a serious condition and demands immediate attention. Without this care permanent blindness may result. Only two cases were notified and both cleared up without impairment of vision.

	Cases			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	2	1	2	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (OPHTHALMIA NEORATORUM) REGULATIONS, 1926.

Midwives are required under the rules of the Central Midwives Board to summon medical assistance in all cases of inflammation of or discharge from the eyes of a child, and must send notice to the County Council that such assistance has been sought. The County M.O.H. in turn forwards a copy of this notice to the local M.O.H. Two such notices were received during 1927.

All cases are visited by a health visitor who administers treatment if the medical practitioner so desires.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

The following table gives details regarding premises in the Borough where food is prepared or stored :—

	No. in District	No. of Visits during 1927.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses.*	11	76	3	3
Dairies and Milkshops	43	436	9	9
Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	39			
Cowsheds ...	8	61	7	7
Slaughter-Houses ...	10	4401	15	15
Fried Fish Shops ...	27	196	7	7
Other Food Preparing Places ...	56	276	15	15

*One bakehouse underground

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year there has been an increase in the number of premises at which bottled sterilised milk is sold. It is bottled by a company in London, distributed three times a week to the shops which in turn sell the unopened bottles to their customers. According to the Milk and Dairies Act, 1915 these shops are not *dairies* but under a ruling of the Lord Chief Justice any person selling milk "in the properly closed and unopened receptacle in which it was delivered to the shop" is a purveyor of milk and must be registered.

All such persons in the Borough are now therefore required to be registered. At 31st December, 1927, there were 39 names on the register in respect of premises the majority of which are small general shops. The inspectors pay frequent visits to satisfy themselves that the bottles are actually sold unopened as received

from the company and so far have found no contravention of the rule.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

Three renewal licences were issued for the sale of Grade A T.T. milk), two for premises under the control of one retailer. He, however, ceased the sale during the year and there is now (March 1928) only one retailer of Grade A milk in the Borough. Samples are taken at frequent intervals to ensure that the required standard of cleanliness is maintained.

SAMPLES OF UNGRADED (ORDINARY) MILK.

32 specimens, examined by the sediment test were classified as shown :—

Clean	...	...	12
Fairly clean	...	...	11
Dirty	...	...	8
Very dirty	...	...	1

Retailers of dirty milk are communicated with and are also shewn the results of the tests. Since these tests were inaugurated the general standard of cleanliness has improved.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK

The County Council is responsible for taking samples of milk under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. 65 samples were examined during the year and in 3 cases proceedings were instituted.

I am indebted to Inspector Paramour for the following details :—

“On the 7th June, 1927 the defendant in a case of selling milk deficient in milk fat to the extent of 23 per cent, was fined £1 and £2 2s. 0d. Costs.

On the 21st June, 1927, the defendant in a case of selling

milk deficient in milk fat to the extent of 15·6 per cent was fined 10/-.

On the 7th June, 1927, a milk retailer of Gillingham, was cautioned for selling me milk deficient in milk fat to the extent of 8·6 per cent. At the request of the retailer I took two samples at Gillingham Rail Station in course of delivery. These were both deficient in milk fat to the extent of 5·6 per cent. The farmer was cautioned and attendance given at the milking of cows. Samples were taken which proved on analysis to be genuine."

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 11 in the Borough, 86 visits of inspection were made and any defects found remedied. There is only 1 underground bakehouse.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

No tuberculosis animals were ordered to be slaughtered by the veterinary inspector.

MEAT.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 licensed slaughter houses, many of which are unsatisfactory especially as regards site, being in close proximity to dwelling houses.

The inspectors made 4401 visits compared with 3759 in the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924.

Under these regulations, the Local Authority must receive notice of slaughtering three hours before it commences.

During each day and night of the week, the inspectors visit slaughter houses, and the results obtained indicate that the inspections are necessary.

The following are the number of notices received and inspections made :—

Total number of notices received during the year	597
Total number received during office hours	... 277
Total number received after 5 p.m.	... 320
Total number of visits made during the year	... 4401
Total number of visits made after 5 p.m.	... 2386
Percentage of visits after 5 p.m.	... 54.2

Legal proceedings were instituted against a slaughterer for failing to give notice of his intention to slaughter,

A conviction was obtained and a fine of five pounds inflicted.

Under the same regulations "steps must be taken to guard against the contamination of meat in shops by flies and by mud being splashed thereon." One butcher having been repeatedly warned and mud being actually found on meat exposed in his window was prosecuted and fined £1.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following articles were surrendered after advice and destroyed as being unfit for the food of man, the approximate weight being 5 tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.

Carcases of beef	...	10	...	Tubercular
Forquarters	...	18	...	do.
Top pieces	...	3	...	do.
Hinds	...	1	...	do.
Various joints	...	1056 lbs	...	Heated
Ox Livers	...	11	...	Tubercular & liver flukes
Calf	...	1	...	Slink
Pigs Plucks	...	2	...	Tubercular
Pigs Heads	...	29	...	Tubercular
Chittlings	...	168 lbs	...	Heated
Corned beef	...	126 lbs	...	Blown
Bacon	...	24 lbs	...	Mould
Crab	...	42 lbs	...	Discoloured
Tomatoes	...	616 lbs	...	Mouldy and soft
Chicken Paste	...	14 lbs	...	Mouldy
Condensed Milk	...	166 lbs	...	Blown
Eggs	...	20 lbs	...	Spotted
Various tin fruits	...	48 lbs	...	Fermented
Fish	...	42 lbs	...	Soft, dull

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Inspector Paramour of the Kent County Constabulary kindly furnished the subjoined information :—

Article.	No. of Samples.	Articles.	No. of Samples.
New Milk	65	Vinegar	1
Butter	27	Lard	6
Margarine	13	Cream	1
Tea	2	Whiskey	14
Condensed Milk	1	Brandy	2
Cocoa	3	Tapioca	1
Sugar	3	Camphorated Oil	1
Raspberry Jam	1	Pepper	1
Black Currant Jam	1	Coffee and Chicory	1
Marmalade	1	Baking Powder	1
S.R. Flour	2	Gin	1
Olive Oil	1		
		Total	150

Three samples of milk were below the legal minimum.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The information given in this part of the Report has been prepared by your Senior Sanitary Inspector —

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Sewage is dwelt with by a main drainage scheme; in the country districts (Wigmore, Hempstead, Grange) a few pail closets or privies are in existence but as a rule the sewage is carried to cesspools :—

Privies	42
Pail closets	50
Earth closets	11
Water closets connected to cesspools	317
W.C.'s connected to sewers	11882

CESSPOOLS.

Cesspools	288
Constructed during 1927 (in Rural Area)	17
Emptyings of cesspools	488

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Number in Borough and situation :—

				Men.	Ladies.
Garden Street. Old Brompton	...	...		1	1
Dock Road, Old Brompton	...	...		1	—
Gymnasium, Brompton Road	...	...		1	—
High Street, Gillingham	...	...		1	1
Gillingham Green	...	...	...	1	1
Pier Approach Road	...	...	...	1	1
Paget Street	...	...	...	1	...
Rock Avenue	...	...	...	1	—
Barnsole Road	...	...	...	1	—
Total				9	4
Visits made by Inspectors during 1927				864	

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Council provides a modern mortuary, situated in the surveyor's yard.

The mortuary attendant also drives the infectious disease ambulance and is in charge of the steam disinfecter.

Bodies received during 1927	...	...	24
Post-mortem examinations	...	...	13

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

28 complaints were received and investigated and advice given to the occupiers; in many instances small quantities of poison were supplied.

In October, a cinematograph film, 1,400 feet in length was sent by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for exhibition in the district. Messrs Croneen kindly offered to exhibit it, free of cost for one week, the only expense incurred being 1/3 for carriage.

Baits of various poisons were laid at the Council's refuse tip.

PREMISES, Etc., VISITED DURING, 1927.

	No. of visits.
Milk Shops and Dairies and Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	436
Cowsheds	61
Bakehouses	86
Slaughter houses	4401
Factories	123
Workshops	107
Outworkers under Factory Acts	160
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	16
<i>Re</i> Notified Infectious Diseases	238
Houses (filthy or verminous)	15
Refreshment Houses or premises where food is prepared	472
School Lavatories	271
Visits under Shops Act	749
Public Lavatories	964
Contacts <i>re</i> Plague	Nil.
Contacts <i>re</i> Small Pox	2
Contacts <i>re</i> Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Nil.
Houses fumigated	107
Drains tested	117
Houses inspected	425

NUISANCES.

During the year 340 complaints were received and investigated.

DRAINAGE.

Drains repaired	159
Subsidiary drains cleared by Health Department	1393
Drains cleared by owners	187
Subsidiary drains or sewers cleared and repaired by Works Department	6
Inspection chambers repaired by owners	7
Inspection chambers repaired by Works Department	4
Inspection chamber covers and frames fitted by Works Department	12
Vent shafts repaired by Works Department	8

DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired and made watertight	217
Eaves guttering and down water pipes provided or repaired	196
External wall protected from dampness	156
Damp proof course inserted under walls	3
Ventilation provided under floors	14
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	24

GENERAL.

Disused cesspools filled in	7
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	26
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floor	11
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	95
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	5

Sashes, doors, frames, floors and stairs repaired	...	...	399
Back additions underpinned or repaired	...	...	123
Filthy houses cleansed by tenants	...	...	15
Removal of animals	...	...	16
Rooms repapered and ceilings distempered	...	...	425
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	37
Overcrowding	...	...	2

SINKS AND BATHS.

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	...	...	17
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed.	...	...	70

WATER CLOSETS.

New L.C.C. pans fitted	...	...	25
Water closets rebuilt	...	...	2
New Water closets constructed	...	...	3
Water closets fittings repaired (water)	...	...	126
Water closets seats, doors floor, brickwork, repaired	...	...	132
Water closets pans cleansed by tenants	...	...	28
Ventilation provided to water closets	...	...	18

WATER SUPPLY.

Pipes repaired	...	...	12
Water tanks cleansed and repaired	2

YARDS.

Drained and paved with cement concrete	108
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PRELIMINARY AND STATUTORY NOTICES.

During the year the following Notices were served :—

PRELIMINARY NOTICES for the abatement of various nuisances under Section 94 of the P.H.A. 1875.	...	...	504
FINAL NOTICES concerning various nuisance under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	148
Preliminary Notices under Sub-Section 3 of Section 39 of the Public Health Acts Amended Act, 1907 for the erection of a sufficient number of W.C.'s	...	...	3
Preliminary Notices under Section 41 of the Public Health Act 1875 re defective drains	...	...	2
Statutory Notices respecting the removal of Manure or other offensive matter under Section 49 Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	92

PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED.

1922	...	...	...	400
1923	...	...	...	592
1924	...	...	...	475
1925	...	...	...	523
1926	...	...	...	514
1927	...	...	...	504

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED.

(Section 94 P.H.A., 1875).

1922	...	...	...	159
1923	...	...	...	267
1924	...	...	...	162
1925	...	...	...	167
1926	...	...	...	205
1927	...	...	...	148

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) Summoned for having on premises two sheep unfit for food.

Result : Case dismissed, Defendent cautioned by Magistrate.

(b) Summoned for depositing for the purpose of sale two carcasses of sheep unfit for the food of man.

Result :-Defendant fined £2-10-0 for each carcase.

(b) Summoned for failing to notify intention of slaughtering.

Result :-Defendant fined £5.

(c) Summoned for failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contamination of meat by mud, etc.

Result :-Defendant fined £1

FACTORIES, WOKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	123	9	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	107	13	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	68	16	...
Total	298	38	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prose- cutions were in- stituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*				
Want of cleanliness	8	8	...	...
Want of ventilation	2	2	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	...	...
Other nuisances	23	23	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	...	...	...
	unsuitable or	...	...	...
	defective	4	...	...
not separate for	...	...	...	...
sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101 ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	...	...	...	...
Total	38	38	...	...

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORKERS.

The number on the register at the 31st December, 1927, was 49 and 160 visits were paid during the year :

HOUSING.

During 1927 the number of houses built was 315. As it is calculated that about 200 are required annually, it is evident that the arrears of war and post-war years are now being reduced.

The following table shows the number constructed during the years 1921-1927 :—

Year.		By Local Authority.	Privately.	Total.
1921	...	119	7	126
1922	...	53	19	72
1923	...	—	55	55
1924	...	—	119 (33 without subsidy)	119
1925	...	—	172 (5 " ")	172
1926	...	—	203 (19 " ")	203
1927	...	96	209 (10 " ")	*315

*10 houses being built without State Assistance.

House shortage is less acute, but it is still impossible to find a working class house to let; amongst the better class of property houses may be rented with less difficulty than in recent years.

Instances of overcrowding are found periodically but are impossible to remedy under present conditions especially when the father of the family is unemployed. The number of applicants on the list for Council houses is approximately 200. Rent plus rates range from 10/7 to 13/10 per week.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE (RESTRICTIONS) ACT, 1920.

One application for a certificate was received but was not granted.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

				No.
On Register 31st December, 1927	...	...	...	19
On Register 31st December, 1926	...	...	...	19
Inspections made	...	...	...	79
Notices served	...	...	...	10

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the Borough.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ...	315
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts ;	
(i) By the Local Authority	96
(ii) By other bodies or persons	209

INSPECTION.

(1) *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	425
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	105
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21

(2) *Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.*

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ...	277
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(3) *Action under Statutory Powers.*

(A) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	Nil.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	148
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices	...	...	...
(a) By owners	...	...	...	136*
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil.

*Including 16 from 1925.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	4

SHOPS ACTS.

One of the sanitary inspectors is also the inspector under the Shops Act. The number of shops on the register at 31st December 1927 was 766.

Visits to shops during 1927	...	...	749
Warnings <i>re</i> infringements	...	...	81

LICENCES.

The chief sanitary inspector is also inspector under the hackney carriage and petroleum acts.

Licences were granted for the following:—

Motor Omnibuses	...	...	...	120
Char-a-bancs	...	...	...	34
Taxis	...	...	...	36
Saloons	...	...	...	155
Drivers	...	...	...	501
Petroleum	...	...	...	36
Calcium Carbide	...	...	...	4

The following fees were received representing the above :—

				£	s.	d.
Motor Omnibuses	...	...	...	30	0	0
Char-a-bancs	...	...	...	8	10	0
Taxis	...	...	...	3	12	0
Saloons	...	...	...	38	15	0
Drivers	...	...	...	25	1	0
Petroleum	...	...	...	25	5	0
Calcium Carbide	...	...	...	1	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£132	3	0
				<hr/>		

RAINFALL.

The following figures were obtained from the Borough Surveyor.

As measured at Gillingham Park the rainfall amounted to 29·04 inches, distributed as shown :—

January	...	...	1 89 inches	July	...	...	3·45 inches
February	...	...	3·19 „	August	...	...	2·93 „
March	...	...	2 22 „	September	...	...	4·20 „
April	...	...	2·29 „	October	...	...	1·08 „
May	...	...	·70 „	November	...	...	1·73 „
June	...	...	2·20 „	December	...	...	3·16 „
Total Rainfall, 1927			...	...	29·04 inches		
Total Rainfall, 1926			...	...	27·47 „		
Total Rainfall, 1925			...	...	25·10 „		
Total Rainfall, 1924			30·52 „		
Total Rainfall, 1923			25·1 „		
Total Rainfall, 1922			23·48 „		



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